

Town Meeting Coordinating Committee

Meeting of Monday, December 13, 2010

Bangs Community Center, Lower Meeting Room

Attendance: Adrienne Terrizzi, Rob Crowner, Mary Streeter, Peggy Roberts, Nonny Burack;
absent: Harry Brooks, Carol Gray.

1. Call to order: Peggy calls the meeting to order at 3:37pm.

2. Spring 2011 warrant review: Peggy reports that because the Town Room is not available on the committee's preferred date of Tuesday, April 12, the warrant review will be held on the backup date of Thursday, April 14. Adrienne reports that she has informed ACTV that the committee will not request the filming of the Spring bus tour.

3. Electronic voting: The committee agrees to postpone a vote on an electronic voting recommendation until Harry is able to participate.

4. Town Meeting member nominations: Mary distributes an updated draft of the postcard that TMCC annually sends to Town Meeting members whose terms are expiring. Nonny will inquire about printing them at Town Hall, or else open a TMCC account at Collective Copies, after which she will organize an addressing party. Last year, the Town franked the postcards for mailing. Mary will also send an email to the listserv to remind subscribers about the nomination deadline.

The committee brainstorms ways of encouraging new candidates to step forward. Suggestions include: putting a blurb on the front page of the town website; submitting an entry to the *Hampshire Life* or *Amherst Bulletin* calendars; requesting a story in the Amherst Bulletin; writing a column or letter to the *Bulletin* op-ed page; and submitting a promotional slide to ACTV.

Mary reports that the Massachusetts Moderators Association offers educational DVDs about Town Meeting for sale on its website. The committee might consider purchasing a copy for the town.

5. Informational forum: Adrienne reports on some of the groundwork she has done for the proposed Spring forum on green initiatives. The LWV will be holding its own forum on this topic on February 21, and a number of other town departments and citizen or college groups have been or will be offering similar opportunities for education or activism. Carol has provided a list of names of people and organizations that might be invited to participate in a TMCC forum. The focus would be on potential new town initiatives rather than a recap of existing programs □ things that would be done through an act of government rather than individual actions.

Rob points out the difficulty in separating education about sustainability initiatives from advocacy for specific proposals. TMCC's role is to help Town Meeting members become better representatives, and forums should be about "topics" rather than "issues"; green initiatives may be too tricky to do as one and not the other. Nonny counsels against doing forums out of habit, observing that a forum might not be called for in this case. Rob suggests "form-based code" as a possible topic for a forum, since it will likely be proposed for adoption at some point. Adrienne requests that TMCC members take note of topics warranting education that come up as each goes about his or her town business.

6. Meeting with Town Manager: The group reviews the items it plans to discuss with the Town Manager at its meeting with him on December 21:

- use and scheduling of the Town Room
- ACTV contract: is it possible to expand coverage to more committee meetings
- amplification of speakers within the Town Room

- timely notification of election results for Town Meeting seats
- TMCC budget account number
- TMCC mandate/mission
- suggestions

Peggy will convey this list to the Manager so that he is prepared for the meeting.

7. Minutes: Adrienne moves, Mary seconds, and the committee unanimously approves the minutes of November 4 and November 29 as amended.

8. Upcoming meetings: The committee will meet on Tuesday, December 21 at 3:45pm in the Lower Meeting Room at the Bangs Center, and then on Tuesday, January 25 at 3:30.

9. Adjournment: The meeting is adjourned at 5:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Rob Crowner

Documents provided:

1. agenda
2. draft minutes of November 4 and November 29 meetings
3. draft of postcard for Town Meeting member term expiration
4. "Master Plan and Sustainability / Greening Amherst Ideas" document prepared by Carol Gray